



## VETERAN MATTERS

### MARION VA HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

January 2018

## Message from the Director



Dear Veterans,

I am pleased to introduce the first edition of our new monthly newsletter, Veteran Matters. You asked for information and updates from the Marion VA Healthcare System. We listened, and now everyone learns.

The newsletter will be sent out monthly using our web-based email distribution system. Simply go to our home page at [www.marion.va.gov](http://www.marion.va.gov), and sign-up for free where it says “Subscribe to Receive Email Updates.” We want this information to be valuable to you, so please feel free to contact us and make suggestions for content.

It is because of you that we enjoy freedom and prosperity today. And it is because of your sacrifice and contributions that our commitment to you is unwavering.

Thank you for your service to our nation.

**Jo-Ann Ginsberg, RN, MSN**  
Medical Center Director

## Career Fair



Interested in working at the Department of Veterans Affairs? Well, the Marion VA Healthcare System hosted a job fair on [Wednesday, Dec. 6, from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.](#) The event was held at the main facility, 2401 Main St., conference room D100. Human resources personnel were available to provide feedback on resumes and application material. A similar hiring event will be hosted in Evansville, Ind., February 2018. Stay tuned for details.

## Flu Shots



Veterans enrolled in VA health care can get a free flu shot at their [nearest VA health care facility](#). If you are not enrolled in VA health care, [find out if you qualify](#).

Perhaps it's more convenient to go to a local Walgreens? Veterans enrolled in VA health care can get a flu shot at Walgreens, and the information will be automatically added to their VA health record. Learn more about [VA's partnership with Walgreens](#). For more information, contact **Kathie Turner**, at (618) 997-5311, x54085.

## Access VA Healthcare

We understand that navigating through VA can be challenging. Below are some of the ways VA is improving access to health care.

### Veterans Transportation Service

- ❖ VA recognizes the difficulty some Veterans may have traveling to receive VA health care due to age, illness, disability, or location. VA offers the [Veterans Transportation Service \(VTS\)](#) for all Veterans who are currently eligible for VA health care benefits and have a VA-authorized appointment.
- ❖ Visit the VTS website to see if transportation services are available in your area or contact **Heather Boatright** at (618) 997-5311, x59456.

### Telehealth

- ❖ VA's Telehealth program allows patients to "meet" with doctors remotely through video teleconferencing. Telehealth makes it possible for Veteran patients to come to many of VA's outpatient clinics and connect to a specialist physician who may be in a hospital that is dozens, or hundreds or even thousands of miles away. Telehealth means that instead of having the cost and inconvenience of traveling by road, rail or air to see a specialist in the hospital, the specialist comes to you.

- ❖ For Veterans who are unable to travel to a Telehealth-enabled clinic, VA provides Home Telehealth services. Special devices make it possible to check symptoms and measure vital signs from home and send the results to health care providers over regular telephone lines. Visit the [VA Telehealth website](#) to find out more or contact **Lesia Donely**, at (618) 997-5311, extension 54115.

### Special Groups

- ❖ Veterans are a diverse group of people with unique health care needs. VA has identified several sub-groups of Veterans and has developed specific programs aimed at studying, understanding, and improving their care. For example, women are the fastest growing group within the Veteran population. In order to provide more specialized care, VA created the [Women Veterans Health Program](#). The program focuses on issues like comprehensive primary care, reproductive health, and women's health education. VA also has specialized resources for:
  - [Caregivers](#),
  - [Combat Veterans](#)
  - [Homeless Veterans](#),
  - [Returning Service Members](#)
  - [Rural Veterans](#),
  - [Seniors and Aging Veterans](#)

### MyHealthvet



Websites like [MyHealthVet](#) provide resources to help Veterans make health care decisions as well as keep track of appointments, medications and important health care information. Contact **Todd Wright**, MyhealthVet coordinator, at (618) 997-5311, extension 54381.

## Suicide Prevention for Veterans: Be There



Supporting the Veteran or service member in your life who's going through a difficult time doesn't have to be complicated. We can all play a role in preventing suicide.

If you notice [warning signs](#) in yourself or a Veteran loved one, **call the [Veterans Crisis Line](#) at (800) 273-8255 and press 1, chat online at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](#), or text 838255** to get confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

## Appointment Access

### [Appointment](#)

### [Wait Times:](#)

(Completed appointments as of Oct. 31, 2017)

Primary Care:	3.07 days
Special Care:	8.15 days
Mental Health:	4.11 days

### Choice Referrals:

In fiscal year 2017, Marion VA Healthcare System approved **24,671** Veteran authorizations of care to the community for a total cost of **\$58,757,199**.

## Feedback



If there was one thing we could improve to make your health care experience better, what would it be?

**Forward comments and suggestions** to the Public and Consumer Affairs Officer: [Kevin.Harris7@va.gov](mailto:Kevin.Harris7@va.gov).

**Get Social:**  [Facebook](#)  [Twitter](#)

## Executive Leadership Team

Director: **Jo-Ann M. Ginsberg**, RN, MSN | 618-997-5311 x54300

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